(b) what are the circle-wise details in his regard for the last year; and

(c) what are the details of the work done by Government circle-wise, for bringing about the improvements during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The improvement brought about by Government in the matter of field services and extending facilities to subscribers are as follows:

(i) Rehabilitation of outdoor plant and subscribers fitting.

(ii) Replacement of old worn-out exchange equipments.

(iii) Introduction of more reliable and efficient technologies like electronic switching equipments; push button telephones; jelly filled cables; ducting of cables; PCM; optical fibre and microwave systems for trunk services;

(iv) Government have adopted a policy in January 1991 to provide telephone facility progressively to all Panchayat Villages by 31st March, 1995 subject to availability of resources as a first step towards the objective of covering all the villages of the country with telephone facility by 1997. This facility is being provided mainly through radio media with lesser maintenance efforts and more reliable performance.

(b) and (c) The details are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXVIII Annexure No. 16]

Scholarships granted by DOT

854. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number and amount of scholarships granted during the last three years by the Department of Telecommunications to students going abroad for studies in telecommunications;

(b) whether such students within the stipulated period have returned home afer their studies;

(c) what is the mechanism by which Government recover its money from those students who do not return home; and

(d) what is the programmes for such students who return home after the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Department of Telecommunications has no such scheme under which scholarships are granted to students for study abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone connections given in Bihar

855. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of telephone connections given during the year 1992-93 in Bihar and what are the places where new telephone exchanges are installed; and

(b) what is the number of telephone connections which are to be given during the year 1993-94 and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of telephone connections given during the year 1992-93 in Bihar is 34389.